

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



May 1, 2017

The Honorable Ann H. Kobayashi, Chair
and Members
Committee on Parks, Community
and Customer Services
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kobayashi and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Bill 40 (2017) — Relating to Trees

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) would like to express several concerns regarding City Council Bill 40 (2017), "Relating to Trees" for the establishment of an adopt-a-tree program:

- DPR does not install plaques on street and park trees except on the Exceptional Trees and does not allow plaques to be installed on the ground since it may become a potential safety hazard.
- With over 200,000 trees in our inventory and the use of private contractors as well as in-house crews for tree maintenance, it is impractical to contact and coordinate maintenance of each adopted tree.
- DPR does not have the staff to administer a new program which would require acceptance and processing of applications and monitoring of the various trees in the program to ensure compliance.
- DPR is concerned that decorations added to adopted trees will interfere with maintenance of the trees. For example, a tree with lights wrapped closely around the tree trunk can inhibit our ability to inspect the health of the tree.
- Although the adopter will be required to sign releases, DPR is still concerned that the installation or removal of decorations could cause damage to the trees such as broken branches, bark damage, or the installer could be injured during the process.

2017 MAY -2 10:05
C & C
HONOLULU
MICHELE K. NEKOTA
DIRECTOR
JEANNE C. ISHIKAWA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

RECEIVED
2017 MAY -2 9:58
CITY COUNCIL
HONOLULU, HAWAII

The Honorable Ann H. Kobayashi, Chair
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May 1, 2017
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DPR is also concerned that the effective date of October 1, 2017 may not provide adequate time for the rule making process.

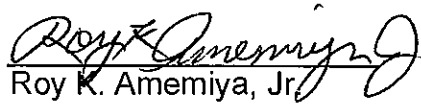
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding City Council Bill 40.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele K. Nekota". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michele" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nekota".

Michele K. Nekota
Director

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy K. Amemiya, Jr.". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Roy" and last name "Amemiya" being the most legible parts. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Roy K. Amemiya, Jr.
Managing Director